

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: John Ensign.

2 MR. ENSIGN: Good evening, Commission. My name is  
3 John Ensign, and I am an employee at the America Cafe, which is  
4 run by the ARC Restaurant Corporation. The ARC Corporation is  
5 the largest subcontracted company on the Las Vegas Strip, and is  
6 located on one of the most profitable corners of the Las Vegas  
7 Strip. I've worked in the restaurant business since I was 18  
8 years old, and now I'm 33. I moved from Sacramento to Phoenix  
9 to improve my standard of living only to find that I was earning  
10 the same amount of money or even less. Since Las Vegas has a  
11 reputation for a good standard of living, I moved here and  
12 expected a good paying job with retirement options and  
13 affordable health insurance. I make 5.15 an hour. I have to  
14 pay for my health insurance, and I'm rarely allowed to work 40  
15 hours a week. My weekly checks are between \$100 and \$120. I  
16 can't qualify to buy a house unless I work two full- time jobs  
17 because my wages at ARC are inadequate.

18 I was raised by a mother who was a housewife and a  
19 chronically unemployed father. We moved almost every year  
20 because of evictions. Most of the time we received welfare  
21 supplements and food rations from the County. I'm the only  
22 member of my family to graduate from high school, which I'm  
23 proud of. Many of my co-workers, however, receive either  
24 welfare supplements and/or rely on food donations. This is  
25 personally shocking to me and unheard of in the union  
26 establishments on the Strip. Union workers receive a living

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1 wage and one of the best health insurance programs in Nevada  
2 free of charge. Also a pension is provided free of charge with  
3 401K options.

4           The hotel my restaurant is located in has  
5 subcontracted out all of their restaurants to non- union  
6 companies like ARC, all of which pay lower than union scale. It  
7 saddens me to see the same cycle of poverty I experienced  
8 growing up in California located on one of the most profitable  
9 corners in Las Vegas, if not the country. This is of a personal  
10 nature to me, and the only reason I feel compelled to share it  
11 with you is so that maybe you can gain some insight.

12           Thank you.

13           CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

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